

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for printing a document comprising:

queuing a plurality of documents in a priority queue;

5 determining the priority of each of the plurality of documents;

responsive to a determination that one of the plurality of documents is a high priority

document, interrupting the printing of another document; and

printing the high priority document.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising: resuming the printing of the suspended document

10 after the high priority document has printed.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer  
type, the plurality of document pages being from one of the plurality of documents;

15 separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based  
on the required printer type for each document page;

selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

printing the plurality of print jobs on the appropriate printers.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

- 20 5. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding  
queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a specific printer.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

8. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue;

5 and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

9. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and

10 wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.

10. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and

responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job

15 exceeds the printer page threshold, separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

calculating the time until the printers are available; and

sending the print job to the first available printer.

12. The method of claim 3 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

20 calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and

sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.

13. The method of claim 3 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available; and

assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

14. The method of claim 3 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

5 assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

15. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

printing a control page with each print job; and

wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

16. The method of claim 3 wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm

10 profile.

17. A program product operable on a computer, the program product comprising:

a computer-usable medium;

wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions comprising:

15 instructions for queuing a plurality of documents in a priority queue;

instructions for determining the priority of each of the plurality of documents;

responsive to a determination that one of the plurality of documents is a high

priority document, instructions for interrupting the printing of another document; and

instructions for printing the high priority document.

20 18. The program product of claim 17 further comprising: instructions for resuming the printing  
of the suspended document after the high priority document has printed.

19. The program product of claim 17 further comprising:

instructions for analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type, the plurality of document pages being from one of the plurality of documents;

instructions for separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page;

instructions for selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

instructions for printing the plurality of print jobs on the appropriate printers.

20. The program product of claim 19 further comprising:

instructions for reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

21. The program product of claim 19 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a specific printer.

22. The program product of claim 21 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

23. The program product of claim 21 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

24. The program product of claim 19 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

25. The program product of claim 19 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white printer.

5 26. The program product of claim 19 further comprising:

instructions for comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and  
responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job exceeds the printer page threshold, instructions for separating print job into a plurality of print jobs.

10 27. The program product of claim 19 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for calculating the time until the printers are available; and  
instructions for sending the print job to the first available printer.

28. The program product of claim 19 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and  
15 instructions for sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time required to print the print job.

29. The program product of claim 19 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available;  
and

20 instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

30. The program product of claim 19 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

31. The program product of claim 19 further comprising:

instructions for printing a control page with each print job; and

wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

5 32. The program product of claim 19 wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile.

33. A program product operable on a computer, the program product comprising:

a computer-usable medium;

10 wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions comprising:

a prioritization program;

a classification program; and

a plurality of printer programs.

15 34. The program product of claim 33 wherein the plurality of printer programs comprises a color printer program, a black/white printer program, and a specific printer program.

35. The program product of claim 33 wherein the prioritization program further comprises:

instructions for queuing a plurality of documents in a priority queue;

instructions for determining the priority of each of the plurality of documents;

20 responsive to a determination that one of the plurality of documents is a high priority document, instructions for interrupting the printing of another document; and

instructions for printing the high priority document.

36. The program product of claim 35 further comprising: instructions for resuming the printing of the suspended document after the high priority document has printed.

37. The program product of claim 33 wherein the classification program further comprises:

instructions for analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type, the plurality of document pages being from one of the plurality of documents;

5 instructions for separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page;

instructions for selecting an appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; and

instructions for printing the plurality of print jobs on the appropriate printers.

10 38. The program product of claim 37 further comprising:

instructions for reassembling the plurality of printed print jobs to produce a finished document.

39. The program product of claim 37 further comprising:

15 instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a specific printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a specific printer.

40. The program product of claim 39 wherein the specific printer is a printer containing letterhead.

41. The program product of claim 39 wherein the specific printer is a photographic printer.

20 42. The program product of claim 37 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a color printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a color printer.

43. The program product of claim 37 further comprising:

instructions for distributing one of the plurality of document pages to a black/white  
printer holding queue; and

wherein the required printer for the distributed document page is a black/white  
5 printer.

44. The program product of claim 37 further comprising:

instructions for comparing each print job to a printer page threshold; and  
responsive to a determination that the number of document pages in the print job  
exceeds the printer page threshold, instructions for separating print job into a plurality of  
10 print jobs.

45. The program product of claim 37 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for calculating the time until the printers are available; and  
instructions for sending the print job to the first available printer.

46. The program product of claim 37 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

15 instructions for calculating the time required for the print jobs to print; and  
instructions for sending the print jobs to the printer with the lowest calculated time  
required to print the print job.

47. The program product of claim 37 wherein the selecting step further comprises:

instructions for ranking the printers based on the time until the printers are available;  
20 and  
instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

48. The program product of claim 37 wherein the selecting step further comprises:



instructions for ranking the printers based on the time required for the print jobs to print; and

instructions for assigning the print jobs to the printers based on the printer ranking.

49. The program product of claim 37 further comprising:

5 instructions for printing a control page with each print job; and  
wherein the control page contains printed instructions for reassembling the document.

50. The program product of claim 37 wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile.